4-H 166

Raising Turkeys Project and Record Book



Name _____

Address _____

4-H Club _____

4-H Advisor _____

Date started _____ **Date completed** _____

I hereby certify that as the 4-H member of this project, I have personally kept records on this turkey project and have personally completed this project and record book.

Signature _____ **Date** _____

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

Raising Turkeys

Turkeys can be raised successfully on small farms, but they require special care and equipment. Be sure you have the right space to keep turkey poults warm and dry, and remember to raise them away from chickens and other birds.

Types of Poults to Purchase

For market turkeys, choose a fast-growing, commercial-type turkey.

The most common variety of turkey in Ohio is the Large White, also called Broad Breasted White or White Holland. Similar in size, but not used by large commercial growers in Ohio, is the Broad Breasted Bronze. With good management, turkeys can be produced efficiently using either of these varieties. Hens grow to live weights of 16–18 pounds at 14 weeks of age; toms can weigh 34–39 pounds at 18 weeks of age. If you are planning to show your turkeys in the market class at the fair, it is best to choose Broad Breasted Whites, as these are the accepted commercial type.

Because of their large size, commercial turkeys are not able to mate naturally. The turkey industry uses artificial insemination to reproduce heavy birds.

Choose heritage varieties or wild turkeys if you like colorful birds or are interested in a breeding project.

Heritage turkeys are shown separately from market birds and usually are kept more for their appearance than for meat. (See pages 29 and 30.) Typically, heritage varieties mate naturally. For heritage turkeys, a ratio of one tom to five hens is often used. Wild turkeys are good flyers and should be kept in a run with a roof, although usually they stay around if feed is available. Eastern strain wild turkeys are native turkeys, so it is necessary to get a permit from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources to keep them. (For a summary of the revised code in Ohio called *Laws: Wild Animal Propagation and Related Activities,* please go to **http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/Portals/9/pdf/pub306.pdf**.) Heritage strain bronze turkeys are similar in appearance to Eastern strain wild turkeys and do not require a permit for ownership. Heritage strains, like Royal Palms, are also good flyers, but are not as likely to leave the area they are fed in. If you have more than one variety of turkey, keep them separate at breeding time to avoid crossbreeding. If pens are not roofed, it might be necessary to trim the flight feathers of one wing to prevent birds from flying from their pens.

According to the American Livestock Breeds Conservancy, the phrase "heritage turkey" is now popularly used to describe naturally mating varieties of turkeys, most of which have standards defined by the American Poultry Association. These are some of the more common heritage turkeys:

- *Small White or Midget White*
- *Black*
- *Bourbon Red*
- *Narragansett*
- *Royal Palm*
- *Slate*
- *Standard Bronze*

For more information about heritage turkeys, go to ***http://albc-usa.org/cpl/turkdefinition.html.***



Flocks usually are started with day-old poults purchased from a hatchery. The poults should come from a National Poultry Improvement Program participating flock and should be free of pullorum, sinusitis, and other diseases. For the fair, be sure to purchase your birds as soon as your county guidelines allow. Check with your local county Extension office for the exact date.

Learning Activities for Types of Poults to Purchase

If you want to learn more about types of poults to purchase, consider these learning activities:

- Get online or go to the library to read about different turkey varieties. Using a separate sheet of paper, write a one-page report about what you learned.
- On a separate sheet of paper, identify and describe the important characteristics of your variety of turkeys.
- Start a personal library about turkeys and their management, or add books to the library you already have.
- Identify and describe three varieties in your project area.

Housing and Equipment

Poults need a dependable source of artificial heat during the first few weeks of life. The first week, the temperature under the brooder should be about 95°F, with room for all of the poults to gather under the brooder. Temperatures away from the brooder can be as low as 72°F, as long as poults are not so far from the brooder that they can't easily warm back up. Clean water and feed should be close by. After the first week, lower the temperature 5°F per week. For a small group of poults, use an infrared bulb, an electric coil, or a shielded electric light.

To brood a hundred or more poults, consider a commercial gas or electric brooder that has a hover and automatic temperature controls. If this type of brooder is used, provide a 100-watt bulb over the area. During the first weeks, confine the poults to the heated area that contains feed and water. Corrugated cardboard, at least 12 inches high and available in rolls, should be placed in a circle about 3 feet from the hover to confine poults during this period. Allow enough space in the circle for poults to move away from the heat source if they become too warm. Check the temperature closely, especially during the first week, adjusting it if the poults show signs of distress (panting if too hot or huddling in groups if too cold). For information, go to **http://4hpoultry.osu.edu** and click "Getting Started with Poultry." Although heat may be stopped at four weeks of age in warm weather, provide heat until six or eight weeks of age in cool weather.

Until six weeks of age, poults on litter without forced air ventilation need at least 1.5 square feet of floor space per poult. When brooding poults on the floor, use 1/8 inch of sand or 1 inch of pine shavings for the first week; then add one inch of chopped straw or shavings per week. During hatching and brooding, do not use slick surfaces such as newspaper, which can cause serious leg problems. Be sure to protect the poults from cats, dogs, and other predators, both during and after the brooding period.

After brooding, the poults can be grown in confinement or in an open yard. If grown in confinement without fan ventilation,



provide at least 10 square feet per bird. If the building is well insulated and ventilated, as little as 5 square feet per tom and 3 square feet per hen may be adequate. Commercially raised turkeys in large buildings may have less floor space (3.8 square feet) per bird, but this is not ideal for 4-H project flocks. Provide at least 16 hours of natural or electric light (one 40-watt bulb every 12 feet) per day.

If poults are placed in a yard after brooding, allow at least 30 square feet of yard space per turkey. A 4-foot fence usually confines turkeys of the heavy variety. Avoid standing water by selecting a well-drained site. Roosts are not needed for commercial birds and may contribute to blisters, bruises, or problems with the keel bone. Heritage varieties are much lighter and will roost if possible. It is helpful to provide turkeys with a shelter to protect them from the sun and rain: 100–180 square feet of roof per 100 turkeys, 7–8 feet off the ground. When coupled with high humidity, temperatures of 90°F or more can cause mortality with heavy-bodied turkeys, particularly when there is insufficient shade or water. Mature and near-mature turkeys do not tolerate high temperatures as well as young turkeys do. On the other hand, under dry conditions, mature turkeys tolerate cold conditions quite well.

Heritage varieties handle weather extremes better than commercial birds and may roost outside all year. Much like wild turkeys, heritage varieties tend to have better feather cover than commercial birds and, if fed well, can tolerate a wide range in weather conditions.

Learning Activities for Housing and Equipment

If you want to learn more about housing and equipment, consider these learning activities:

- Identify a minimum of eight pieces of equipment that are used for raising turkeys.
- Make a diagram that describes the housing used for your project.
- Present a report about how to rear turkeys.

Feeding and Management

Feed and water the poults as soon as possible after bringing them home, dipping their beaks in water to help them learn to drink. The first two days, place some feed in egg cartons or on the lid of the poult box. During the time you have your turkeys, feed and water must *always* be available.

Water

Provide a 1-gallon drinking fountain for every fifty poults. Allow 1 linear inch of water trough space per turkey after 8 weeks of age. Water may be piped to the pen and controlled with a float valve, or commercially available waterers may be used. It is important to clean waterers daily, keeping a brush handy to brush them out at cleaning time. Birds might not drink enough water if it is dirty, thus limiting their feed intake and growth. Dirty water also contributes to the spread of disease. If water intake is negatively affected during hot weather, mortality may result.

Feed

For turkeys up to 13 lbs (8 wks), provide at least 1.5 inches of feeder space per bird. For turkeys 13–35 lbs (9–19 wks), provide at

least 2 inches of feeder space. It takes about 92 pounds of feed to raise the average Large White tom turkey to an age of 18 weeks. Weekly growth rate and feed consumption for large turkeys are shown in Table 1 on the next page.

It's a good idea to keep track of your turkeys' growth rates and to compare them to the commercial performance objectives. *Every week or at regular intervals* weigh each bird or, if you have a large flock, weigh a few representative birds. Keep records of their age, weight, weight gain, and feed consumption.

If your scale is not sensitive enough to measure ounces, begin your records when the poults are three weeks old. Just be sure to weigh them at the same regular interval. (Usually, for the sake of convenience, this is weekly.) For each one, keep a chart similar to Table 1.

- To calculate weight gain per day (Gain/Day), start with the current weight, divide by age in weeks, and divide by 7. This is a turkey's average gain per day.
- To calculate weekly consumption, divide how much you feed your flock by the total number of birds. Cumulative consumption is simply the running total of all the weekly consumption amounts.

Once you have these records, you can calculate how much weight your birds are gaining on the feed you are providing. This is called **feed conversion**—a measure of how efficiently a bird converts feed into weight. According to Table 1, at 18 weeks of age a commercially bred Large White tom has a conversion rate of 2.35.

Because turkeys are fast-growing, it is very important to buy correctly formulated turkey feeds. For good health and good growth rates, follow the feed manufacturer's instructions so that your turkeys are on the appropriate diet for their age. Increases in growth rates may be achieved by keeping your market turkeys on a high-protein feed (turkey starter) for longer than is suggested by the feed manufacturer, but doing so does not necessarily give you better overall results. Table 2 on page 21 shows the latest guidelines (1994) of the National Research Council for nutrient requirements of turkeys. Commercial turkey breeder companies may recommend a diet that maintains a slightly higher percentage of protein in the starting and growing rations than is listed in the 1994 NRC guidelines.

During egg production, turkey breeder females should be fed a turkey hen breeder ration. Oyster shells or limestone grit may be useful for free-ranging breeder hens during egg production. Free-ranging turkeys may benefit from access to turkey grit.

Learning Activities for Feeding and Management

If you want to learn more about feeding and management, consider these learning activities:

- Keep performance records like the ones described here for some or all of your turkeys.
- Outline the nutrient requirements for turkeys.
- Explain one function of each five nutrients (protein, energy, minerals, vitamins, water).
- Using five feed ingredients of your choice, balance a ration for turkeys eight weeks of age.



TABLE 1. COMMERCIAL PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES

Males					
Age (weeks) [A]	Target Weight [B]	Gain/Day (lbs) [B÷A÷7]	Feed Consumption (lbs)		Feed Conversion [C÷B]
			Weekly	Cumulative [C]	
1	0.32	0.046	0.34	0.34	1.05
2	0.88	0.063	0.64	0.98	1.11
3	1.74	0.083	1.09	2.07	1.19
4	2.85	0.102	1.52	3.59	1.26
5	4.18	0.119	1.97	5.56	1.33
6	5.96	0.142	2.78	8.34	1.40
7	8.04	0.164	3.56	11.90	1.48
8	10.37	0.185	4.07	15.97	1.54
9	12.97	0.206	4.91	20.88	1.61
10	15.98	0.228	5.96	26.85	1.68
11	18.89	0.245	6.21	33.06	1.75
12	21.74	0.259	6.73	39.78	1.83
13	24.66	0.271	7.32	47.10	1.91
14	27.64	0.282	7.90	55.00	1.99
15	30.62	0.292	8.38	63.38	2.07
16	33.58	0.300	9.15	72.53	2.16
17	36.51	0.307	9.61	82.15	2.25
18	39.36	0.312	10.35	92.50	2.35
19	42.11	0.317	10.67	103.17	2.45
20	44.74	0.320	10.47	113.64	2.54
21	47.22	0.321	11.02	124.66	2.64
Females					
1	0.30	0.043	0.32	0.32	1.05
2	0.68	0.049	0.46	0.78	1.14
3	1.40	0.067	0.95	1.72	1.23
4	2.32	0.083	1.29	3.02	1.30
5	3.38	0.097	1.72	4.73	1.40
6	4.72	0.112	2.30	7.03	1.49
7	6.24	0.127	2.83	9.86	1.58
8	7.91	0.141	3.19	13.05	1.65
9	9.71	0.154	3.65	16.70	1.72
10	11.61	0.166	4.08	20.78	1.79
11	13.33	0.173	4.28	25.06	1.88
12	14.96	0.178	4.26	29.32	1.96
13	16.69	0.183	4.73	34.05	2.04
14	18.31	0.187	4.77	38.82	2.12

Continued on following page.

Females (continued)					
Age (weeks) [A]	Target Weight [B]	Gain/Day (lbs) [B÷A÷7]	Feed Consumption (lbs)		Feed Conversion [C÷B]
			Weekly	Cumulative [C]	
15	19.85	0.189	5.05	43.87	2.21
16	21.33	0.190	4.98	48.85	2.29
17	22.72	0.191	5.00	53.85	2.37
18	23.99	0.190	5.89	59.74	2.49
19	25.16	0.189	5.18	64.91	2.58
20	26.23	0.187	5.65	70.56	2.69
21	27.10	0.184	5.05	75.61	2.79

Data provided by Nicholas Turkeys for 88 x 700 commercial turkeys for the year 2007. Growth is influenced by many factors including feed, management, and season.

TABLE 2. PROTEIN AND ENERGY REQUIREMENTS OF TURKEYS

Age of toms in weeks	0 to 3	3 to 6	6 to 9	9 to 12	12 to 15	15 to 18	Breeders Holding	Laying Hens
Age of hens in weeks	0 to 3	3 to 6	6 to 9	9 to 12	12 to 14	14 to 16		
Protein	28	26	22	19	16.5	14	12	14
Metabolizable Energy (ME) kcal MEn/kg	2800	2900	3000	3100	3200	3300	2900	2900

From National Research Council, *Nutrient Requirements of Poultry*, 9th ed. (1994).

Preventing Health Problems

To a large extent, the health of your flock depends upon sanitation and avoiding contact with other flocks of turkeys and birds of all kinds. Clean feeders and waterers help prevent coccidiosis and infestations of blackhead and roundworms. When the poults are young, wash the waterer, and supply clean water at least once a day. At the same time, remove any droppings or litter that may be in the feeder. Never use moldy feed or litter. Molds may cause serious respiratory and intestinal problems. Do not use hardwood or cedar sawdust or shavings for bedding. Pine shavings are considered very good bedding. Remove wet or caked bedding and replace with clean dry shavings. It is best to exclude from your pens visitors who have had contact with other poultry or birds within the last 72 hours.

Under some conditions, cannibalism may be a problem. Inadequate floor space, underfeeding, poor nutrition, and bright lights may contribute to this condition. Hatcheries often beak remodel on poults at hatch to help control this problem. Beak remodeling is an accepted management practice and is not counted against the bird in a show situation. Buyers may need to request this service when placing orders. Excessively remodeled beaks may detract from the appearance of heritage varieties intended for show. Cannibalism is not usually a problem with small flocks raised under good conditions.

When raising turkeys for meat, it is advisable to keep the sexes separate after four months of age. Commercially, hens and toms are raised separately due to their marked differences in growth rates and the age they are marketed. Separate



birds if they develop leg problems, as these problems can lead to additional injury from other birds, especially males. Desnooding day-old market turkey poults at the hatchery is another practice that may reduce fighting and resultant injury, but it should not be used on heritage strain turkeys.

Fowl pox is common in turkeys. It produces wart-like spots or blisters on the head and wattles and, in some cases, ulceration of the mouth and wind pipe. In baby turkeys it can cause poor or uneven growth. Older turkeys recover without treatment in three to four weeks. Successful vaccination provides an immunity lasting about six months. If pox does not occur in your area, there is no need for you to vaccinate.

As mentioned earlier, raising turkeys and chickens together may lead to problems with sinusitis and blackhead. Chickens can harbor the causative agents of sinusitis or blackhead without appearing sick. Sinusitis is caused by a small, bacteria-like organism called *Mycoplasma gallisepticum*. Blackhead, which is common in Ohio, is caused by a microscopic protozoan called *Histomonas meleagridis*. It causes pathological changes in the intestinal tract and liver and, if uncontrolled, can cause high mortality in turkeys.

External parasites such as lice and mites can be controlled by treating birds with an insecticide such as Sevin® or pyrethrins. Observe warnings and follow the directions on the product packaging.

If your flock becomes sick, an accurate diagnosis should be obtained. The problem might be poor nutrition, poor management, or an infectious disease. You must know what is wrong with the turkeys in order to treat them properly and to manage the flock and prevent further losses. Be sure to take birds with typical symptoms or freshly dead birds to a laboratory, and remember to provide an accurate history of the sickness. Diagnostic services are offered by the State Diagnostic Laboratory in Reynoldsburg as well as Extension specialists. Contact your local Extension office for more information.

Learning Activities for Preventing Health Problems

If you want to learn more about preventing health problems, consider these learning activities:

- Identify and compare two common external parasites of your turkeys.
- Outline the nurtient requirements for turkeys.
- List medications currently being used to cure or control poultry disease.
- Demonstrate one way to control cannibalism in turkeys.
- Prepare a written report on a common turkey disease.
- Identify three common internal parasites of your project birds.
- Prepare a written report on sanitation practices that control diseases.

Selecting Turkeys for Show

To select turkeys for show, refer to the Factors in Judging and Selecting Turkeys section on the next page.

Begin by examining birds for defects and parasites. Eliminate those with cuts, tears, bruises, breast blisters, or buttons. It may be helpful to place turkeys on a table to examine them. Examine birds for width, length, and thickness of breast. Always select an alternate bird in case something happens to your first choice.

To see a video on how to judge a market turkey, go to ***http://4hpoultry.osu.edu/Showing%20tips.htm*** *and click on "Phil Clauer talks about Jared Miller's first place market turkey."*

Learning Activities for Selecting Turkeys for Show

If you want to learn more about selecting turkeys for show, consider these learning activities:

- Demonstrate how to select and prepare turkeys for show.
- Exhibit your turkeys at the county or state fair.
- Enter a poultry showmanship contest.
- Prepare a demonstration for the county fair.
- Attend a major turkey show.
- Demonstrate to younger members how to show a turkey.
- Describe the undesirable characteristics of turkeys.

Factors in Judging and Selecting Turkeys

Heritage and wild turkeys are judged based on how well they meet the standards described in the *American Standard of Perfection* published by the American Poultry Association, Inc., as well as the condition of the bird at judging time.

Market turkeys are judged on factors including conformation, fleshing, finish, and defects. Conformation refers primarily to the skeletal system or shape of the bird. This term often is used mistakenly to describe the distribution of flesh on the turkey. The perfect market turkey should resemble a large rectangle in which the breast width equals body depth or thickness. Both the narrow-breasted turkey with a deep body and the wide-breasted bird with a shallow body are at a distinct disadvantage.

Shape includes length, width, and depth, which should be well balanced. All these characteristics are of vital importance in the final evaluation of the bird.

The keel bone (breast bone) should be long, straight, and free of defects such as dents or knobs. It should carry well back between the legs. The back and keel bones should be parallel. In wide-breasted turkeys, the keel bone sometimes curves upward between the legs, resembling the rocker on the bottom of a rocking chair. This is a serious defect.

The back should be long and wide, with a broad spring of ribs.

The body should be full and deep. Body depth must be consistent with breast width. Birds that are extremely deep but are narrow across the back and breast are discriminated against.

Fleshing refers to the amount and distribution of muscle or flesh on the bird. Breasts, drumsticks, and thighs carry the bulk of the meat and should be examined closely.

The more nearly the breast conformation resembles a giant *U,* the better it is. The breast should be wide and full near the front of the body. This width and fullness should extend the entire length of the keel or breast bone. Ideally it should be as wide between the legs as at the widest part. This is unlikely in most cases, but the less taper to the breast, the more meat. Avoid selecting turkeys with a heart-shaped breast.



Drumsticks and thighs should be well developed and carry an abundance of muscle. They should be round, bulging, and firm to the touch.

Finish refers to the amount of fat in and immediately under the skin. Without a good fat cover, a well-fleshed bird loses eye appeal. Poultry should not be fat to the point of being wasty. Abdominal fat should account for less than 10 percent of the total body weight. To judge the amount of fat, in a sparsely feathered area of the breast halfway between the front of the keel and the base of the wing, take a fold of skin between the thumb and forefinger of each hand. Examine it for thickness and coloration. The fold on a Grade A bird is creamy white and thick. The amount of finish considered adequate varies between judges and depends on personal preference.

The presence of any of the following defects lowers the final placing of the bird:

- General defects such as cuts and tears
- Broken or disjointed bones
- Skin or flesh bruises anywhere other than on the wing tip
- Blisters or calluses on the breast
- Insect bites
- External parasites (lice, mites, or fleas)
- Extremely dirty birds
- Pendulous crop

Breast blisters or calluses may vary in size. There may be a slight thickening of skin over the front of the breast bone or a very large, fluid-filled, sac-like bubble covering most of the breast bone.

Occasionally, the crop of the turkey becomes visibly distended—a condition called pendulous crop. A pendulous crop, which is related to the feeding and drinking of a turkey, may seem to appear and disappear over time. Typically, a turkey with a pendulous crop is not processed in industry. Therefore, a pendulous crop is considered a defect in market show.

Feathering defects might also lower the placing of the bird or eliminate it from show. Feathers completely encased in the feather sheath are considered pin feathers and do not protect the skin of the bird as much as older feathers do. Inadequate feathering or barebacks may lead to sunburn in turkeys that are kept outside. Infected feather follicles are a defect, especially on the breast, and may be the result of wet or inadequate bedding.

Almost all of today's market turkeys have white feathers. Even so, feather color is important only to the extent that it might detract from the appearance of the ready-to-cook carcass. (Colored pin feathers sometimes leave dark spots in the flesh.)

Conformation defects to be considered include rocker keels and breast bones that are dented, crooked, knobby, *V*-shaped, or slab-sided. Backs that are narrow, crooked (hunched), roached (arched), or humped; legs and wings that are deformed; and bodies that are definitely wedge-shaped might also lower the placing of the bird. Defects such as crooked toes or beaks are not important and are usually disregarded.

Fleshing defects include breasts that do not carry width well back to the end of the keel (tapered from front to back so they're heart-shaped) and are *V*-shaped or concave rather than full and rounded (*U*-shaped). Other fleshing defects include thin drumsticks and thighs, and backs that are not well-fleshed along the vertebrae or hip bones.

Lack of fat in the wing webs is a finish defect. Thin, reddened, semi-transparent skin in the sparsely feathered areas of the breast and abdomen might also cause disqualification.

Animal Care and Welfare

The purpose of the Animal Care and Welfare section is two-fold:

- To increase awareness of the issues of animal well-being and quality assurance
- To encourage you to reflect on your values concerning these issues

Privileges, Responsibilities, and Rewards

Everyone associated with livestock, either on the farm or in the show ring, is responsible for the well-being of their animals. As a 4-H member, you need to learn to care properly for your projects and develop acceptable livestock husbandry skills. These are the privileges, responsibilities, and rewards you can expect from the 4-H program.

Privileges

- To know as much about your project as possible
- To receive information to raise the project
- To be given a variety of experiences relating to project work
- To be given sound guidance and direction
- To ask questions and share concerns
- To be recognized

Responsibilities

- To treat humanely all livestock projects in your possession
- To be sincere and believe in the value of a job well done
- To be loyal to the values and ideals of the 4-H program
- To accept the guidance and decisions of the program coordinators
- To be willing to learn and participate in training programs and meetings
- To continue learning throughout your years of 4-H membership
- To follow good practices, ensuring a safe, wholesome product of the highest quality

Rewards

- To enjoy satisfaction from a job well done
- To receive both public and personal recognition
- To learn new skills, receive special training, and experience personal growth
- To make new friends and have fun
- To feel good about producing a wholesome, consumable product
- To realize that you are important and that you can make a difference

Animal Well-Being

As a 4-H member, you need to be aware of the things you can do with your own animals to promote animal well-being. You need to set goals and develop a plan that positively impacts your animals' well-being on the farm, in your backyard, and at the fair.

You can complete some tasks before you obtain your turkeys. First, think about the size they will be as they grow to maturity.



Are your facilities large enough for them to exercise? Are there hazards such as protruding nails, broken boards, or wires in the pen? Can the turkeys reach any potentially dangerous objects such as electrical boxes or poisonous plants? Think about the type and quantity of bedding that is needed to keep your turkeys dry and warm or cool. You should have an ample supply of clean water available to them at all times. A designated feeding area should be kept free of manure, urine, and bedding.

Once your turkeys arrive and are in your care, providing them with a balanced ration is an important first step. Processed feeds, supplements, and pre-mixes are available. Be sure your turkeys are receiving the nutrition they need in relation to age, growth cycle, and purpose.

Animal Health

Know Your Vet

When questions or concerns arise, involve your veterinarian. Develop a veterinarian-client-patient relationship (VCPR). This relationship requires that the veterinarian has seen and has knowledge of your flock (the patients) and has discussed a health plan or any treatments with the owner (client). Your veterinarian can be very helpful in developing a health care program for your turkeys. Your plan should include an appropriate schedule for internal/external parasite control, etc.

Using Medicine

You should check with your veterinarian before administering treatments, especially if there is any question about the diagnosis and the medication you are planning to use.

A **withdrawal time** may be indicated on the label of certain medications. This is the period of time that must pass between the last treatment and the time the turkey is slaughtered. For example, if a medication with a 14-day withdrawal period were to be given on August 1, the withdrawal would be complete on August 15, which would be the earliest date the turkey could be processed for human consumption. It is important that you follow directions for withdrawal time as given by the label or as prescribed by your veterinarian.

In addition to the withdrawal time, the label of a drug lists the animal species for which the drug is approved, the dosage to be administered, how it is to be given, and for what diseases/conditions it can be used as a treatment. Any use other than that which is printed on the label can be directed or prescribed only by your veterinarian. For example, a neighbor's turkeys are sick and a veterinarian has treated them using twice the dose listed on the label of an over-the-counter (OTC) product. Your turkeys become ill and are showing the same symptoms. You may *not* use the neighbor's double dose for your animal without a veterinarian examining and prescribing the specific treatment. Any deviation from the label directions when using a drug is referred to as **extra-label drug use**. Unless directed by a veterinarian who has established a VCPR, *extra-label drug use is illegal*.

Medication Label

Understanding medication labels and inserts is important for ALL animal owners and care providers. READ all labels carefully. Show your understanding of the medication label below by identifying all nine parts in the blanks provided.

Active ingredient	Name of drug
Cautions and warnings	Quantity
Expiration date	Storage
Lot number	Withholding times
Name of distributor	

1. _____ ***OMNIBIOTIC***

(Oxytetracycline HCl) 2. _____

Directions for use: See package insert.

3. _____

Warning: The use of this drug must be discontinued for 5 days before treated animals are slaughtered for food. Do not administer to chickens or turkeys producing eggs for human consumption. Do not administer this product with milk or milk replacers. 4. _____

Store below 25°C (77°F). 5. _____
For animal use only.

6. _____

Net Contents: 4.78 oz
Distributed by
USA Animal Health, Inc. 7. _____

EQ771-3 8. _____ 9. _____ **2/11/YR**

Medication Insert

Before administering any drug to an animal, READ the label carefully. Show your understanding of the medication insert below by identifying all ten parts in the blanks provided.

Active ingredient	Route of administration
Approved uses	Sizes available
Cautions and warnings	Species and animal class
Dosages	Storage requirements
Name of drug	Withholding times

OMNIBIOTIC 1. _____

(Oxytetracycline HCl) 2. _____

For use in beef cattle, chickens, dairy cattle, sheep, swine, and turkeys. 3. _____

Active Ingredient: Omnibiotic is a broad-spectrum antibiotic containing oxytetracycline HCl.

Indications in *Turkey*: Hexamitiasis caused by *Hexamita meleagridis* and infectious synovitis caused by *Mycoplasma synoviae*. In growing turkeys, complicating bacterial organisms associated with bluecomb (transmissible enteritis coronaviral enteritis). 4. _____

Recommended Daily Dosage for Turkeys 5. _____

	Dosage	Packs/2 gal stock solution		Gal of stock solution per tub
		4.78 oz (135.5 g)	9.55 oz (270.7 g)	
Hexamitiasis caused by *Hexamita meleagridis*	200–400 mg/gal	1/2–1	1/4–1/2	60–30
Infectious synovitis caused by *Mycoplasma synoviae*	400 mg/gal	1	1/2	30
Growing turkeys, complicating bacterial organisms associated with bluecomb (transmissible enteritis coronaviral enteritis)	25 mg/lb body weight daily	Varies with age and water consumption	Varies with age and water consumption	Varies with age and water consumption
Medicate continuously at first clinical signs of disease; continue for 7–14 consecutive days. If improvement is not noted within 24–48 hours, consult a poultry diagnostic laboratory or poultry pathologist to determine diagnosis and advice on dosage.				

Caution: Medication for use in drinking water only. Not for use in liquid feed supplements. 6. _____
Prepare fresh solutions every 24 hours. Store below 25°C (77°F). 7. _____

Note: The concentration of drug required in medicated water must be adequate to compensate for variation in the age of the animal, the feed consumption rate, and the environmental temperature and humidity, each of which affects water consumption.

8. _____

Warning: Use as a sole source of oxytetracycline. Do not administer to turkeys, cattle, or sheep within 5 days of slaughter. Zero-day slaughter withdrawal in swine. Do not administer to chickens or turkeys producing eggs for human consumption. Do not administer this product with milk or milk replacers. Administer 1 hour before or 2 hours after feeding milk or milk replacers. A milk discard period has not been established for this product in lactating dairy cattle. Do not use in female dairy cattle 20 months or older. 9. _____

How Supplied: Omnibiotic is available in 4.78 oz (135.5 g) and 9.55 oz (270.0 g) packets of soluble powder. 10. _____



Feed Tag Activity (a)

TURKEY PRESTARTER MEDICATED

Complete Feed for Poults

For the prevention of coccidiosis in growing turkeys caused by *Eimeria adenoeides, Eimeria meleagrimitis,* and *Eimeria gallapavonis*

ACTIVE INGREDIENTS

Halofuginone Hydrobromide..... 1.90 g/ton

GUARANTEED ANALYSIS

Crude Protein (Min.)	26.00%
Lysine (Min.)	1.55%
Methionine (Min.)	0.60%
Crude Fat (Min.)	2.00%
Crude Fiber (Max.)	5.00%
Calcium (Min.)	1.15%
Calcium (Max.)	1.65%
Phosphorus (Min.)	0.90%
Salt (Min.)	0.15%
Salt (Max.)	0.65%

INGREDIENTS

Grain Products, Plant Protein Products, Animal Protein Products, Calcium Phosphate, Animal Fat, Ground Limestone, Methionine Supplement, L-Lysine Monohydrochloride, Calcium Propionate, Salt Choline Chloride, Zinc Oxide, Copper Sulfate, Manganous Oxide, Manganese Sulfate, Ferrous Sulfate, Calcium Iodate, Sodium Selenite, Vitamin A Acetate, Vitamin D-3 Supplement, Vitamin E Supplement, Menadione Dimethylpyrimidinol Bisulphite, Niacin, Calcium Pantothenate, Riboflavin Supplement, Vitamin B-12 Supplement, Biotin, Folic Acid, Thiamine Mononitrate, Ryridoxine Hydrochloride.

FEEDING DIRECTIONS

Feed as the only ration to starting poults from 1 day to 21 days of age. Refer to current feeding schedules for feeding according to body weight or consumption.

WARNING

Feed continuously as the sole source in complete ration. Withdraw 7 days before slaughter.

MANUFACTURED BY SKILLATHON FEEDS

Turkey Prestarter Feed Tag Questions

1. What is the main ingredient in this feed?

2. What is the active drug ingredient?

3. What is the crude protein level?

4. For how many days prior to slaughter should this feed be removed?

5. What is the crude fat level of this diet?

6. Is ground limestone included in the ingredients of this diet?

7. This ration should be fed to turkey poults of what age?

